

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl⁷ G06F17/60

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
Int.Cl⁷ G06F17/60

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1922-1996	Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1994-2004
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1971-2004	Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho	1996-2004

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
JICST FILE (JOIS), WPI, INSPEC (DIALOG)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 2002-117153 A (Kobe Steel, Ltd.), 19 April, 2002 (19.04.02), Full text; Figs. 1 to 15	1-2, 4-5, 7, 9, 11-12, 14, 16, 18
Y	(Family: none)	3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17
Y	Hajime OHASHI, "Ring-gata Setsuzoku Onsei Tachiten Kaigi System ni okeru Data Denso Kino no Kento", The Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers 2000 Nen Tsushin Society Taikai Koen Ronbunshu 2, The Institute of Electro nics, Information and Communication Engineers, 07 September, 2000 (07.09.00), page 159	8, 15

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"I" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
05 February, 2004 (05.02.04)

Date of mailing of the international search report
17 February, 2004 (17.02.04)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/16497

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	Takuhiro KIMURA et al., "Zemi Keishiki no Kyodo Gakushu o Shien suru System no Sekkei", Information Processing Society of Japan Kenkyu Hokoku-sho", Information Processing Society of Japan, 19 December, 1997 (19.12.97), Vol.97, No.125, pages 39 to 46	3,6,10,13,17
Y	Akihiro HATANAKA et al., "Kogi no Kiroku no Saisei ni Kansuru Gakuseikan no Joho Kyoyu Shien", Information Processing Society of Japan Dai 57 Kai (Heisei 10 Nen Koki), Zenkoku Taikai Koen Ronbunshu (4), Information Processing Society of Japan, pages 4-7 to 4-8	3,6,10,13,17